Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 06788 120438Z ACTION NEA-10

R 111239Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3332

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 6788

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EGEN IN

SUBJECT: US INDICTMENTS AGAINST PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH THE CHARGE ON MAY 10, FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA ASKED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT INDICTMENTS AGAINST PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY FOR, AMONG OTHER CHARGES, EVASION OF INCOME TAXES ON A SUM OF MONEY GENERATED BY TRANSACTIONS WITH THE COCHIN REFINERY LTD. OF COCHIN, INDIA.

2. IN PARTICULAR, MEHTA ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT COPIES OF TWO DUCUMENTS WHICH HE HANDED TO THE CHARGE WERE GENUINE, THE FIRST HE SAID, WAS A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (ON HIS COPY THE LETTERHEAD IS APPARENTLY BLOCKED OUT ALTHOUGH THERE IS A DOJ NOTATIION AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAST PAGE). THE SECOND IS A COPY OF A GRAND JURY INDICTMENT IN THE US DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRUCT OF OKLAHOMA. WE ARE POUCHING THESE COPIES TO NEA/INS WITH THE REQUEST THAT THEY BE VERIFIED SO THAT WE MAY OFFICIALLY COMMUNICATE THAT VERIFICATION TO THE GOI.

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3. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE REGARDING ILLEGAL PAYMENTS OR SUPPLIES PROVIDED TO INDIANS. HE INDICATED HIS FIRST PRIORITY, HOWEVER, WAS THE VERIFICATION OF THE DOCUMENTS.

4. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WANTED THIS REQUEST TO BE HANDLED

IN CONFIDENCE. HE ASKED THAT HIS JOINT SECRETARY LEAVE HIS OFFICE BEFORE TAKING IT UP WITH THE CHARGE. SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT NOT REPEAT NOT MENTION THIS REQUEST TO THE INDIAN EMBASSY. SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Subject: US INDICTMENTS AGAINST PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, IN, PHILLIPS PETROLEUM, COCHIN REFINERY LTD

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